

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 12 and 23 have been canceled. The limitations of claim 12 have been added to claim 11. New claims 25-27 include the allowable limitations of original claims 15, 17 and 18 rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-22, and 24-27 are pending in the application and should now all be in condition for allowance.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 11, 16, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thieulin (US 2,093,218). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite issuance of the present application, Applicants have amended independent claim 11 (from which claims 16 and 19 depend) to include the allowable subject matter of respective claim 12 and canceled claim 23. The present rejection is now moot.

New Claims

As noted above, new claims 25-27 have been added and include the limitations of allowable claims 15, 17 and 18. Consideration and allowance of the new claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



Date: April 5, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua N. Randall". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Joshua N. Randall
Reg. No. 30,719
JNR:ae